(Engineering Graduates/ Diploma holders) have not been given even one promotion during the last 20—25 years of their service;

(b) if so, why Government's ACP Scheme, which specifically been introduced to take care of such cases, has not been implemented by FCI so far when the same has been implemented by organisations like CPWD, DDA, NDMC, etc.; and

(c) what are the reasons for this arbitrary treatment being given to these Assistant Managers (Engineering) when people of comparable grades in other cadres have been given two to three promotions during this period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) and (c) As far as the Government of India's ACP Scheme is concerned, the same is not applicable to FCI. Promotions in FCI are vacancy based and not time bound. Further, promotions are cadre linked wherein an officer belonging to one cadre is promoted in the same cadre to a higher post if the vacancy exists. Steps are being taken to tackle this problem of stagnation.

Probe into rejection of wheat by Iraq

475. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian high delegation, which visited Iraq to probe rejection of two wheat shipment, has since given its report;

(b) if so, what are the findings; and

(c) what are the reasons that the stringent quality norms for separating sands, stones and other inorganic matter has required by Baghdad were not followed by the Indian exporters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Iraq has recently rejected four consignments of wheat exported by three parties from India. Iraq has rejected the wheat consignment from India insisting that the cargo should be totally free from inorganic matter, such as, sand, silica, dust and asphalt, and also live insects.

As per the International CODEX standards, foreign matter in the grain is permissible upto 2% out of which 1.5% consists of organic matter, such as, chaff, weed seeds, other edible and non-edible grains, etc. and the balance (0.5%) inorganic foreign matter, such as, stones, dust, etc. Quality specifications prescribed in the Iraqi contract provided for the presence of foreign matter upto 2%. There was no further break-up of this 2% into organic and inorganic foreign matter.

The Indian delegation that visited Iraq was, however, informed by Iraqi authorities that, according to their definition, they do not count sand particles under foreign matter. In other words, inorganic matter, which is a part and parcel of foreign matter, like sand, stones, pebbles, clay particles, etc., are not accepted under this category. The explanation given by them was that only organic foreign matter (like chaff, glumes, weed seeds and other edible and inedible grains) are taken under this category. This position was not known to the exporters. They presumed that, as in the CODEX standards, the 2% foreign matter would include upto 0.5% in organic matter. The delegation was further informed that the Iraqi flour mills were not having adequate facilities for separation of inorganic matter because of the problem of spare parts required for maintenance of such machines owing to UN sanctions. The delegation was told that the Iraqi authorities had accordingly taken a decision to reject any wheat stocks found with inorganic matter like sand, stones, etc. The delegation was further informed that Iraq had also rejected the wheat source from various other countries on the same grounds.

The export of wheat has not been directly undertaken by the Food Corporation of India. The exporters have been given the freedom to identify wheat stocks available in the Central Pool for the purpose of export. However, on receipt of reports of rejection of wheat consignments from India, it was decided that no further consignment of wheat would be sent to Iraq, unless it was cleaned to meet the specifications of the Grain Board of Iraq.

Annual outlay for schemes in Super Bazar

476. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual outlay approved for various schemes for Super Bazar during 2001-2002;